

Grants

The Institute will support a nationwide network of research projects and educational programs. In 2003, the Institute plans to launch a research and educational grant program to advance knowledge in speleological science and to address national needs in cave and karst research and resource management.

When the grant process is operational, applications will be accepted from:

- universities and colleges
- non-profit, non-academic organizations such as museums, observatories, research laboratories, and professional societies
- for-profit organizations such as corporations and small businesses, state and local governments, and educational districts
- unaffiliated scientists and educators
- federal agencies
- foreign research and educational organizations

Contact the Institute or visit the web site www2.nature.nps.gov/nckri for grant application guidelines.



Cave divers enter a submerged cave in the Florida karst.
Photo by: Wes Skiles, Karst Productions, Inc.

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In addition to the founding partnership among the National Park Service, the City of Carlsbad, and the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, the growing list of Institute partners and supporters includes:

Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S.D.A. Forest Service
U.S. Geological Survey

Florida State University
New Mexico State University
Western Kentucky University

American Cave Conservation Association
Cave Research Foundation
Hydrogeology Consortium
Karst Waters Institute
National Caves Association
National Speleological Society
Ozark Underground Laboratory



Aragonite needles on calcite stalactites.
Photo by: Ronal Kerbo

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



National Cave and Karst Research Institute

*Partnerships for research, education,
and resource management*



The National Cave and Karst Research Institute facilitates speleological research, enhances public education, and promotes environmentally sound cave and karst management.

National Cave and Karst Research Institute

The National Cave and Karst Research Institute was created by act of Congress in 1998 and placed under the leadership of the National Park Service.



Goals of the Institute:

- Further the science of speleology through coordination and facilitation of research.
- Serve as a repository and provide analysis and synthesis of speleological information.
- Foster partnerships and cooperation in cave and karst research, education, and management programs.
- Promote and conduct cave and karst educational programs.
- Promote national and international cooperation in protecting the environment for the benefit of caves and karst landforms and systems.
- Develop and promote environmentally sound and sustainable cave and karst management practices, and provide information for applying these practices.



A Crystal Cave millipede in Rapunzel's Canyon.
Photo by: Joel Despain

Above: A desert pallid bat catches food using echo-location.
Photo by: Ronal Kerbo

Partnerships

The Institute is being established by the National Park Service through partnerships with the City of Carlsbad and the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. These initial partnerships are being expanded to include other universities, cave and karst interest groups, agencies, and organizations.



Partnerships are critical to the success of the Institute. Support from a wide range of public and private groups will enhance the Institute's ability to promote sound science and resource management and to increase research and educational funding to advance the knowledge of cave and karst systems. An expanded list of partnerships is on the back of this brochure.

Above: National Speleological Society volunteers participate in cave restoration and biological survey projects at Wind Cave National Park. Photos by: Jason Walz

Funding

The National Cave and Karst Research Act of 1998 requires that the Institute be funded by matching non-federal and federal funds. Thus, contributions from other organizations are vital to successfully accomplishing the mission and goals of the Institute.

The State of New Mexico provided the initial non-federal matching funds for establishing the Institute to the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology and the City of Carlsbad, who will remain key partners.

Matching funds may be accepted from non-federal sources such as individuals, state or local agencies, and private organizations and institutions. Funding also may be accepted from other federal agencies.



Sinkholes along the Chevelon Fork of the Little Colorado River.
Photo by: L.J. Maher, University of Wisconsin

Photo on cover: Carlsbad Cavern entrance.
Photo by: Dale Pate